

GEO. O. SENTER Editor and Manager Telephone 222

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LABOR SITUATION SERIOUS.

There is much complaint about a scarcity of labor not only in Columbus but in contiguous agricultural districts...

The scarcity of labor has existed to a greater or less extent for the past eighteen months, but has varied in its seriousness...

It is currently rumored that labor agents who have been here to secure workers for the nitrate plant at Sheffield...

The entire problem seems to be quite a knotty one, and the Commercial is impressed with the thought that it would be a good idea for local merchants...

Nothing more deleteriously affects a community than a scarcity of labor, and the Commercial sincerely hopes that some plan which will satisfactorily solve the problem...

REDUCE COTTON ACREAGE.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the high price which cotton is now bringing will not induce farmers in Lowndes county or anywhere else in the South to plant too freely of the staple this season...

The principal reason why the amount of cotton planted should be smaller this season than ever before lies in the fact that every acre devoted to the cultivation of the staple takes just that much from the land available for the production of foodstuffs...

the most serious problems now facing the federal government is to secure a sufficient amount of wheat and other food products to provide for the needs of the American expeditionary forces and the French and English soldiers who are co-operating with them in a titanic struggle to subdue the forces of the Kaiser.

Napoleon, who was perhaps one of the greatest military geniuses that the world ever produced, is said to have been exceedingly careful to see that his soldiers were well fed, having once made a remark to the effect that "an army fights on its belly..."

A limited cotton acreage is to be desired not only from a patriotic standpoint but also as a good business policy; for if the country should produce a large cotton crop the market would naturally decline...

It is therefore a duty which every farmer owes not only to his country but himself and his family to plant a minimum amount of cotton and devote his energies principally to the production of foodstuffs.

MISSISSIPPI LEADS.

According to recently published statistics, Mississippi made greater progress in the butter making industry last year than any other southern state...

During the past few years repeated efforts to establish a creamery in Columbus have been made; but all have failed, and Lowndes county, which is splendidly adapted to cattle raising and which does each year raise a large number of milch cows...

Butter, like every other comestible, has advanced tremendously in value during the past few years, and that a creamery would prove a paying venture is therefore a foregone conclusion.

Mississippi's butter production last year amounted to three million pounds, and the United States agricultural department is co-operating with the dairy interests in that state with a view to increasing the production to four million pounds this year.

Only a few years ago Mississippi was as backward in creamery industry as its neighbors, that is to say butter making on a commercial basis was a negligible quantity. But after it got a start and the state became tick free Mississippi creamery butter was in brisk demand in various markets...

We don't know who would win a popularity contest between government officials, but we feel safe in venturing the prediction that it would be neither Fuel Director Garfield or Secretary of War Baker.

Now that the time for spring house-cleaning is so close at hand, we are led to wonder if officials of the government will announce "beatless days" for carpets.

ODD NEWS ITEMS.

Pocketful at a time, Boston man stole 14,000 nickels from an automobile.

Rabbits left hind foot to be given every Kansas negro drafted into the army, for luck against Boches.

Goat flesh not meat, Food Administration rules, and may be eaten on meatless days.

Two red snails costing ten cents made Chicago woman "The Snail Queen" and a fortune in three years.

To stop worrying about how to get coal, Peekskill man had himself committed to asylum and went there by himself.

Donkey, scratching back against box on telephone pole, put Colorado train despatching system out of commission.

3,000-pound auto driven over harbor of ice to Stamford, Conn., light-house and back, carrying two men.

Cat famine in Jersey, if bill passes to tax cats \$1 and save the birds. In six-line will, Westchester county man disposes of \$200,000 estate.

"African golf has been introduced over here, and the French soldiers like it," writes commander of a New York negro regiment now near the front.

In three weeks 200 articles for soldiers were made by the fourteen members of the Forest Park Sewing Society.

Won a war bride, and now soldier has named their first war baby his "Liberty Bell."

Pound of cooked turkey cost him \$2 at a fashionable delicatessen shop, lawyer yet complains to the Food Board.

Reindeer meat from Alaska and rabbit meat from Texas are used to offset beefless days in San Francisco.

"Poor" woman arrested in Cincinnati was found to have \$3,349.16 sewed up in her clothing.—Meridian Star.

Information Given.

To Whom it May Concern: Your attention is herewith directed to information below relative to sale of sugar, flour, advertising, and wholesale quantities of sugar which you are expected to strictly comply with:

Sugar

Sugar should be sold in towns and cities to consumers in two to five pound quantities; to farm and rural customers in five to ten pound quantities. The "normal profit" allowed retailers is construed to mean not exceeding one cent per pound on sugar.

Flour

Flour in towns and cities should be sold in eighth to quarter barrel quantities; in rural and farm communities in quarter to half barrel quantities.

Advertising

Any advertisements tending to induce consumers to increase their purchases of flour or sugar during the present National crisis are decidedly against public policy. This information has already been given you with the suggestion that the press of your state censor their advertisements. We request that you please convey this information to the retail grocers.

Wholesale Quantities of Sugar

Wholesale grocers should not sell sugar in quantities in excess of 1,000 pounds at a time to a retailer. Sugar should not be shipped on back orders, nor without a positive order from the buyer. Wholesale grocers should use every precaution to their command to prevent duplication of sales which may give to a retailer the opportunity to have more sugar than is necessary for conservative distribution, as outlined in the second paragraph of this letter.

Important Notice

Flour should be sold at wholesale and retail "only" with an equal quantity of cereal or cereals. All at normal profit.

Yours very truly, P. M. HARDING, Federal Food Administrator.

LOYALTY.

Over and above all the many qualifications we look for in the ideal employe, I must unhesitatingly place loyalty.

Give me a man of average intelligence, who has character and loyalty, and even though he has nothing else, he can be moulded and made an efficient part of our organization.

But even though he possesses every other qualification and is disloyal, he is a constant menace to those with whom he is associated.

So high a premium is placed upon Loyalty under the military code that the soldier guilty of its violation is immediately punished by death.

While disloyalty in business may not be immediately productive of evil results as it is in an army where thousands or perhaps millions of lives are at stake, it will in the long run absolutely wreck any enterprise that harbors or tolerates it.—Fidelity Journal.

Before buying your new spring suits, hats, shoes, shirts, underwear, etc., see ours. Ezell Clothing Company.

Ezell Clothing Company is receiving new spring goods daily.

Pay Your Grocer Promptly

And You Will Be Helping to Win the War

Because good collections means less bookkeeping and conserves man power. They also enable your grocer to buy lower, carry a better stock, and serve you better. Customers who pay promptly are not harassed by duns and are, therefore, in a better frame of mind to manage their own affairs and do their bit for the government.

Lighten Your Grocer's Delivery Burden

And you will also be conserving man power and material.

Don't ask him to deliver things you can conveniently take home from the store. Don't keep his wagon running to your home with petty deliveries. Every unnecessary trip of that wagon means so much man power wasted, so much wear and tear on the wagon or truck—a useless strain on leather and steel, a useless drain on the supply of feed and gasoline—all taken from the government's war needs.

Use a little thoughtfulness. Go into your pantry and see what you need for the week, down to the pepper and salt. Make it all in one order, and have it delivered at one time.

The burden of winning this war has been placed upon the United States. Every saving of time, labor and material, no matter how small, counts for victory. So pay your grocer promptly and ease his deliveries all you can.

Columbus Grocery Merchants

BRAZILIAN MOTHERS AND THE GREAT WAR.

By Rev. G. D. Parker.

When war was declared by Brazil against Germany, a widow in the city of Pernambuco took her only son (who was exempt from military service being the only son of a widow) to the barracks and offered him as a volunteer to defend his country. Similar heroic sacrifices are being made all over the country by the noble women and their brave boys.

"My son, to do justice to thy character and heart, I think thy mother's counsels unnecessary in this solemn hour. Up to a few days ago thou wast a mere Brazilian; today thou art a Brazilian soldier. Before God, who reads my heart and knows all my actions, I am able to hold up my humble head, conscious that I have fulfilled my duty as a Brazilian woman rearing and instructing thee to be a patriot.

"This love that thou owest to thy country, my son, ought to be—indeed, has to be—similar in its capacity for sacrifice and abnegation to the love that I have for thee. Patriotic love can only be compared to maternal love. Every weak woman is ready to give her life for her son, as every man ought to be ready to give his life for his country. To no other love can it be compared; for all other loves are influenced by inconstancy, caprice, pleasure, jealousy, and self-interest; but patriotic love knows no such restrictions, does not become exhausted, but rises above all the selfish interests of low human instincts. Love thy country above all things, for thou wouldst not have been anything more than an outcast (pariah) if thy country had not made thee a citizen, if it had not granted to thee the noble right to be somebody among men upon the earth and made thee a fellow citizen of the great human family. To be my son is to belong to a small and limited family bound by the ties of blood; to be a Brazilian is to belong to a family of thirty million brothers, bound together by the same duties, participant of the same glory, and associated in the same destiny.

"By thy birth and youthful training thou wast made a Brazilian soldier. I, thy mother, who reared and defended thee, now place myself under thy protection. I trust in thy power and am under thy care. The honor of thy country is also the honor of thy mother, and I have no doubt that thou knowest how to defend it on any field against anything that would threaten it.

"I see thee today with other eyes; I forgot that I saw thee weak and helpless upon my bosom; that I rocked thee in my arms and protected thee with my love. I see in thee only a man, an active and conscious force, resolute and energetic—a soldier. The barracks now is thy home, by country is now thy mother.

"But to be a worthy soldier it is not enough that thy courage and dedication should be unconditionally at the service of thy beloved Brazil, which was our cradle and which, please God, shall receive our mortal remains to be dissolved and become a part of the beautiful Brazilian soil. No, my son, courage and love are not enough. It is necessary that, being a soldier, thou shouldst have a passion for honor and a clean conscience and that thou professed the manly religion of a gentleman. It is necessary that thou have self-respect in order that thy clean heart may have the beauty of the spirits of the knight errants. The more honorable the hand that draws the sword, the stronger and more invincible it will be. Be loyal and generous, although vigorous and inflexible. Do not use thy force to oppress the weak and never abandon the innocent; thus thou wilt be a worthy soldier of a magnanimous country which never made a war except to defend its honor and safeguard its liberty. An honored country requires that the honor of its soldiers be unassailable, and I had rather see thee dead than that thou shouldst stain thy uniform with a single unworthy act which would cause me to blush for shame. Thy uniform should clothe thy stainless honor, as thy mother's bridal robes clothed her chastity. What I say to thee is just what every Brazilian mother in more beautiful terms is saying to her sons in this hour in which Brazil claims our most sacred gift, which not one of us will refuse, to clothing our maternity with majesty.

"The hand that blesses thee (referring to the patriarchal custom of children kissing the parent's hand, asking at the same time the parental blessing, which still obtains in Brazil) does not tremble as it points out the way to duty and honor. My pride as a patriot is a balm to my sorrow as a mother.

LUKE McLUKE SAYS

Birmingham Age-Herald.

Knowing that a preacher is only human, we may have often wondered just what he exclaims when he swats his thumb with a hammer and there is no one around to hear him.

Aspiration will never get you anything unless you can make it produce perspiration.

There is also the kind of girl who would rather have a man break the Ten Commandments than break an engagement with her.

Marriage is something that in five years will turn a perfect 3 into an imperfect 48.

A man will always put his shoulder to the wheel when the load is consigned to his address.

And a woman's heart never gets so hard that a diamond can't make an impression on it.

People expect too much from children. Mother will go around Easter Sunday morning with a red finger and a blue finger and a yellow finger and a purple finger on each hand and then expect the kids to believe that the Easter Rabbit colored the eggs.

Some women always start just early enough to be late.

A woman's idea of affluence is to have enough silverware to entertain company without borrowing.

The older an unmarried girl gets, the more she can't remember things that happened 15 years ago.

The reason why a lot of ambitious young men never get anywhere in this world is because they want to start on high. Any automobilist can decipher this one for you.

Maybe father would be more affectionate if he didn't know the minute he begins to act spoony mother will tell him that he has been drinking again.

There are many many times in his matrimonial career when a husband wonders who the Hek put that word "obey" in the female portion of the marriage service.

He may be the light of her life during the engagement. But after marriage she discovers that he goes out too often.

Wood Pulp Used in Cloth Manufacture in Germany.

Wood pulp is being manufactured into cloth in Germany, according to advices received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

The pulp is spun into a thread and then woven into a fabric, the warp of which is linen thread. It is said to be durable and to stand washing five or six times. It is utilized for clothing of all kinds, but especially for underwear.

Bring your peas, sorghum seed and molasses to me to ship for you. J. T. Searcy.

Accident and Health Insurance

makes certain your income in the event of accident or illness. Can you afford to go without this protection? A lengthened term of disability might seriously inconvenience you, unless you have a disability policy. Have you one of these policies? If not, get one now!

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